

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
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Former Payson, Illinois Postal Worker Pleads Guilty to Fraud

Springfield, IL – A former relief postmaster at Payson, Illinois, pled guilty today to issuing fraudulent postal money orders, as announced by Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois. Sentencing for Malinda A. Pryor, age 34, of 1316 Jackson Street, Quincy, Illinois, is scheduled for September 18, 2006, before U.S. District Judge Jeanne E. Scott.

During a court appearance this afternoon before U.S. Magistrate Judge Byron Cudmore, Pryor admitted that she issued 103 fraudulent postal money orders from August 2003 to August 2004, with a total value of \$37,026.71 without receiving payment from anyone for them. Of the 103 money orders, 43 were payable to herself. The remaining money orders were payable to her relatives, a former relative or to persons or businesses to whom either she owed money or to whom her relatives or a friend owed money.

At sentencing, the charge carries a maximum statutory penalty of up to five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Patrick J. Chesley.

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